

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐  
no ☐

Property Name: Musser's Inventory Number: WO--585  
Address: Assateague Island, Maryland City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: 21811  
County: Worcester USGS Topographic Map: Whittington Point, MD  
Owner: United States of America Is the property being evaluated a district? ☐ yes  
Tax Parcel Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Project: Hunting Lodge & Retention Properties US Department of the Interior,  
Agency: National Park Service  
Site visit by MHT Staff: ☒ no ☐ yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is the property located within a historic district? ☐ yes ☒ no

*If the property is within a district*

District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_

NR-listed district ☐ yes Eligible district ☐ yes District Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ☐ yes ☐ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ☐

*If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)*

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☐ yes ☒ no

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Historic Context Study of Waterfowl Hunting Camps and Related Properties within Assateague Island National Seashore, MD & VA. Eschelman, R.E. and P.A. Russell. 2004

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Physical Description of Structures: The Musser cottage is a one-story frame structure on wood pilings of approximately 1,000 square feet; 700 sq ft of which are enclosed space and the balance screened porch. The structure has four rooms, including two bedrooms, bathroom, and a common living room/kitchen area. The exterior is sheathed in asbestos shingles and has an asphalt shingle roof. The only other structure associated with the property is a wooden walkway several hundred yards to the west, possibly the remnants of a dock/pier.

Prepared by: Carl S. Zimmerman

Date Prepared: 3/28/2012

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: Jonathan Sager  
Office of Preservation Services

Reviewer, NR Program

6/18/12  
Date

6/9/12  
Date

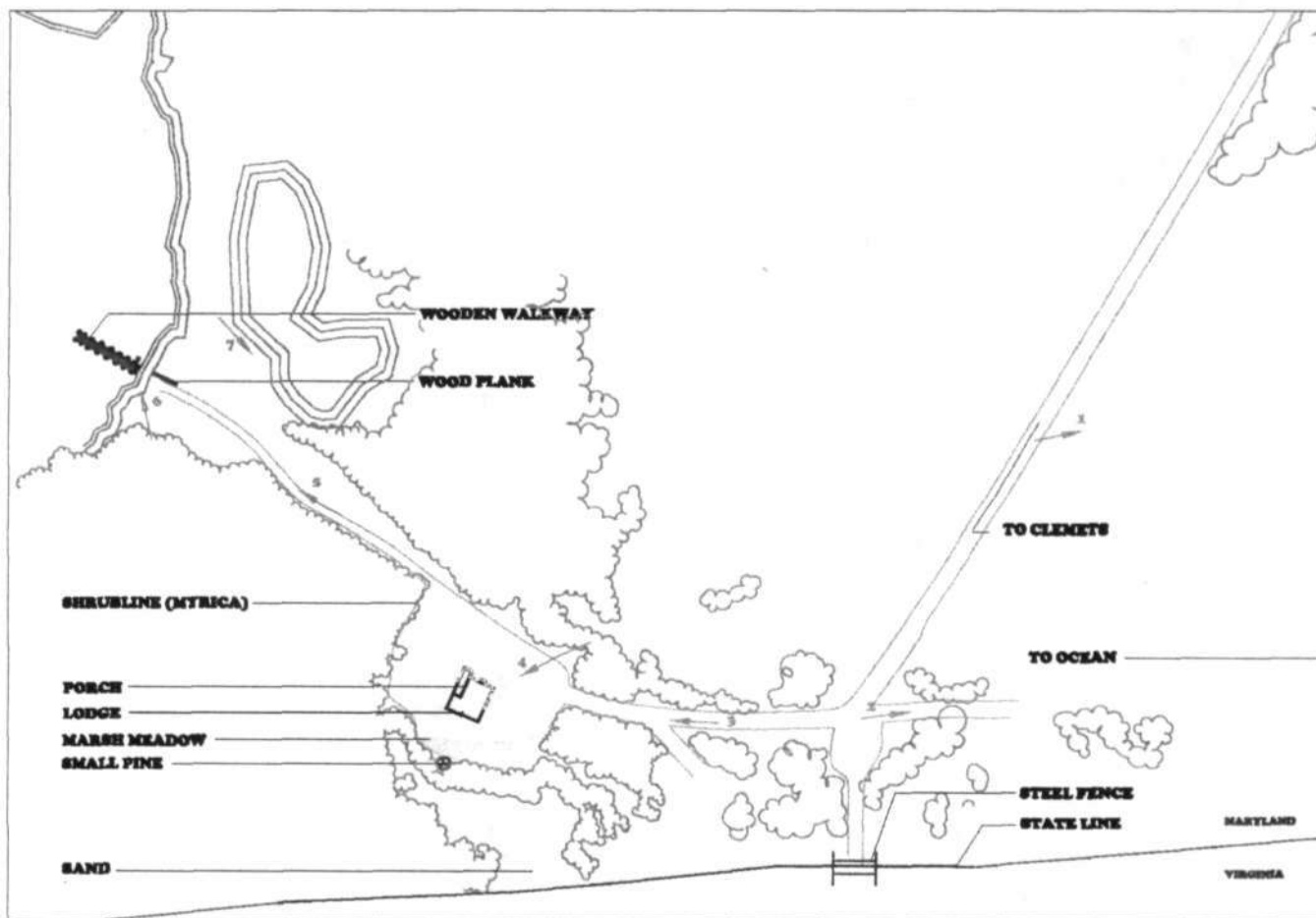
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W0-585

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

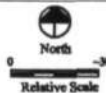
Continuation Sheet No. 1

## Existing Conditions Map



SOURCES:  
1997 Aerial photography  
Field observation

SHRUB/TREE LINE    EVERGREEN    BUILDING  
SHORELINE    POST OR POLE    PHOTOGRAPH DIRECTION & NUMBER



**MUSSELS LODGE  
EXISTING CONDITIONS MAP**  
Hunting Lodge Properties Study-Assateague Island National Seashore  
National Park Service-Philadelphia Support Office  
August 2000

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 2

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**Brief History**

**Musser's (circa 1955)**

Thomas W. Musser, Sr., purchased the first tract [8-588] of this property in 1954 from South Ocean Beach, Inc. A second tract [8-391] was purchased in 1961 from South Ocean Beach, Inc. The house is built on wood piles high enough to make it necessary to go up a flight of stairs to enter the cottage. Another flight of stairs goes to roof. The interior is sided with knotty pine paneling. The house was vandalized in 1968 and repaired in 1971-72. Musser sold his property to the US Government in 1972 including a 25-year retention right for use of the house on tract 8-391. Thomas, Jr., repaired the house in 1978. By 1983 the house was vandalized, left in disrepair and reported as "an eyesore."

The appraisal of 1968 makes no mention of blinds, hunting, waterfowl, lodge, etc. The property is merely described as a "one story frame cottage consisting of 4 rooms and bath including kitchen." Musser, "never did any hunting I don't think." Notation in Musser's file at Assateague Island National Seashore states: "not a hunting camp".

Excerpted from:

Eschelman, R.E. and P.A. Russell. 2004. Historic Context Study of Waterfowl Hunting Camps and Related Properties within Assateague Island National Seashore, Maryland and Virginia. National Park Service, Berlin, MD.

**Eligibility Recommendation**

The Musser's property was a private beach house where hunting was rarely if ever conducted, and therefore lacks association with the historic context of commercial and recreational hunting on Assateague Island. The property has no known relationship with significant persons, and the architecture lacks any noteworthy design or construction qualities. Because of their ordinary design, construction, and materials, the remaining structures on the property have no potential to yield important information about human history. For these reasons, the Musser's property is considered to be without historical significance and therefore **ineligible** for the National Register of Historic Places.

W0-585

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 3

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**Bibliography**

Eschelman, R.E. and P.A. Russell. 2004. Historic Context Study of Waterfowl Hunting Camps and Related Properties within Assateague Island National Seashore, MD & VA. National Park Service. Berlin, MD. 103 pages.

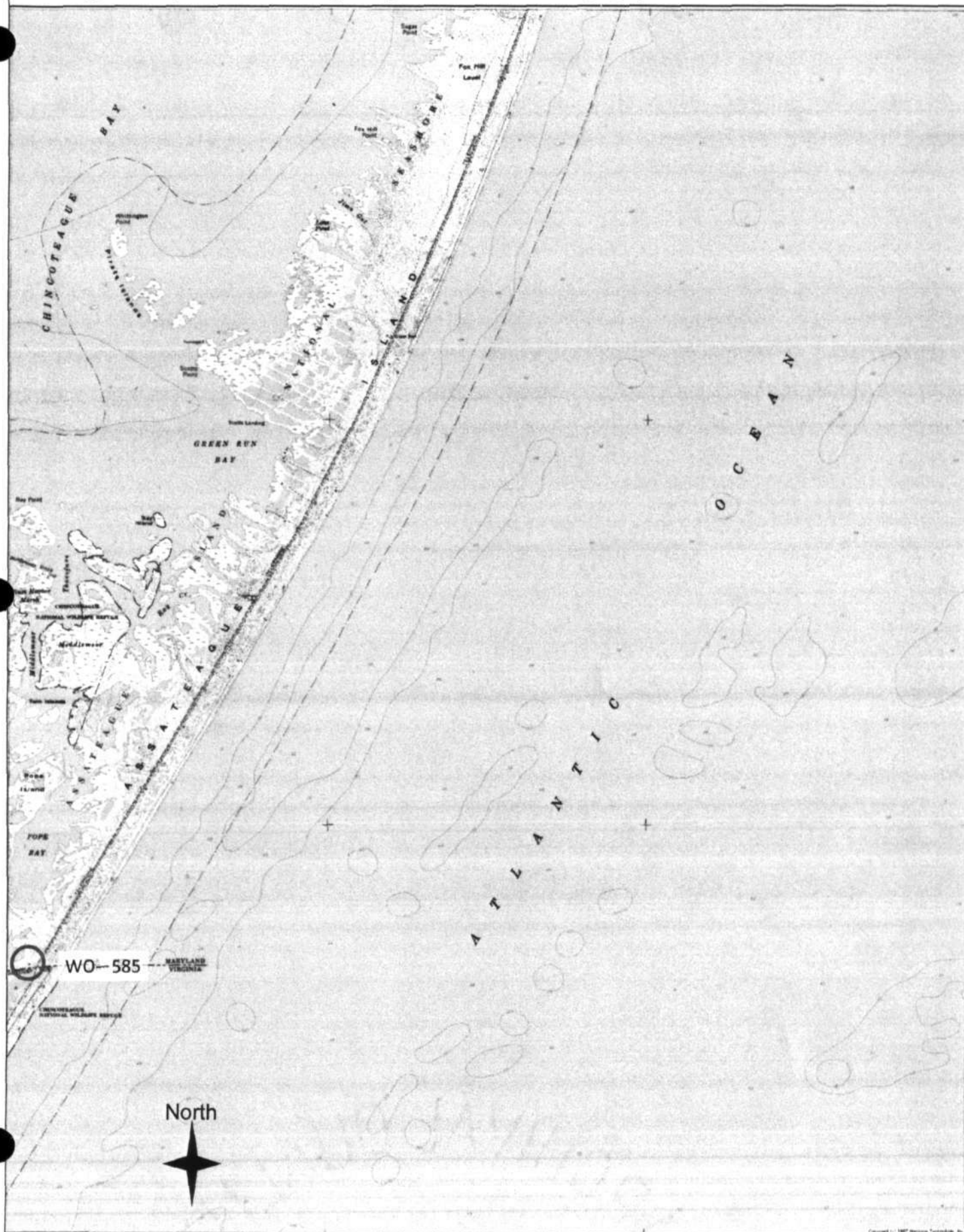
National Park Service. 2000. Cultural Landscape Field Survey, Hunting Lodge Properties Determination of Eligibility Study, Assateague Island National Seashore. Berlin, MD. 38 pages.

National Park Service. 2012. Deed and Land Record Files, Assateague Island National Seashore. Berlin, MD

WO-585 Musser's

Assateague Island, Worcester County, Maryland

USGS Topographic Quadrangle - Whittington Point



WO-585      Musser's

**Photograph Log**

Image File Name	Image Description
WO-0585_2007-6-18_01.tif	View of Musser's from the east
WO-0585_2007-6-18_02.tif	East side of Musser's
WO-0585_2007-6-18_03.tif	North side of Musser's
WO-0585_2007-6-18_04.tif	West side of Musser's

**Notes:**

All photographic prints created using Epson Claria ink and Epson Ultra Premium Photo Paper Glossy  
Digital image files saved on Delkin Devices Archival Gold® CD-R (Phthalocyanine dye)



WO-585      Mussers

1 of 4

Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

View of Mussers From the East

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WD-585      Mussers

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Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

East side of Mussers

WD-0585\_2007-6-18\_02.TIF



WD-585      Mussers:

3 of 4

Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

North side of Mussers

WD-0585\_2007-6-18\_03.TIF



WD-585 Mussers

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Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

West side of Mussers

WD-0585\_2007-6-18\_04.TIF